by Government to check incidence of atrocities on Scheduled Castes in these States?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) It is true that in absolute number the crimes against Scheduled Castes in Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Bihar are highest in the country. However, as per crimes per lakh Scheduled Caste population, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar ranked 1st, IVth and VIIth respectively in 1986.

(b) The Government is deeply concerned about atrocities on Scheduled Castes and is determined to put an end to this menace. With a view to effectively dealing with crimes against Scheduled Castes and to tone up the administrative machinery to tackle this vital issue, comprehensive guidelines containing precautionary, preventive, punitive and rehabilitative measures have been conveyed to the State Governments from time to time which included posting of SC/ST officers in the sensitive areas from the point of view of crimes against Scheduled Castes. A review of crimes against Scheduled Castes is also undertaken annually and wherever necessary the matter is taken up with the concerned State at the highest level.

Irrigation of cultivable land

742. SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) what percentage of cultivable land is irrigated in the country at present and which are the states which have cultivable areas under irrigation below the national average; and

(b) whether the Central Government propose to provide extra plan assistance to backward States like Madhya Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) According to the latest available Land Use Statistics, 1983-84 (Provisional), the national average percentage of net irrigated area to cultivable land is 22.7%, and the percentages in States of Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Goa, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Rajasthan, Sikkim and Tripura are below the national average.

(b) Irrigation projects are funded and implemented by the State Governments and Central assistance is given as block grants and loans and is not tied to any sector of development.

चीनी का उत्पादन

743. **श्री मीर्जा ईर्शादबेग** : क्या खाद्य और नागरिक पूर्ति मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) चीनी का राष्ट्रीय उत्पादन और उसकी खपत कितनी है और 1986-87 के दौरान कितनी चीनी का आयात किया गया और उस पर कितनी विदेशी मुद्रा खर्च की गई ;

(ख) देश में चीनी के उत्पादन को बढ़ाने के लिए क्या कदम उठाए गये हैं और इससे उत्पादन कितना बढ़ा है ; और

(ग) नई सहकारी चीनी मिलें स्थापित करने का मानदण्ड क्या है और अब तक प्रत्येक राज्य से कितने आवेदन प्राप्त हुए हैं और उन पर क्या निर्णय लिए गए हैं ?

संसदीय कार्य मंत्री तथा खाद्य और नागरिक पूर्ति मंत्री (श्री एच० के० एल० भगत) : (क) और (ख) सरकार द्वारा उठाए गए विभिन्न पगों के फलस्वरूप, चालू मौसम 1986-87 के दौरान 15 जुलाई, 1987 तक चीनी का उत्पादन 83.82 लाख मीटरी टन के स्तर तक पहुंच गया है जबकि पिछले वर्ष तदनुरूपी तारीख तक 68.99 लाख मीटरी टन